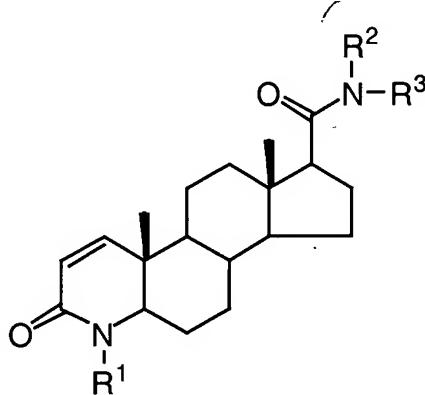


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In these clinical [photographss] photographs, the only variable allowed is the global area's appearance. Anything extraneous to the area (clothing, furniture, walls, etc.) is eliminated from the fields to be photographed.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel Claims 2, 3, and 6 to 10.

1. (Amended) A compound of structural formula I:



(I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof, wherein:

R¹ is methyl;

R² is [selected from:]

- [(a)]H[, and]
- [(b) C1-6 alkyl];

R³ is selected from:

- (a) heteroaryl, either unsubstituted or substituted with one to three substituents independently selected from:
 - (1) halo (F, Cl, Br, I),
 - (2) C1-2 alkyl[;],
 - (3) trifluoromethyl,

- (4) nitro,
- (5) hydroxy,
- (6) cyano,
- (7) amino,
- (8) C₁₋₂ alkyloxy,
- (9) phenyl, and
- (10) heteroaryl; and

(b) phenyl substituted with one to three substituents independently selected from:

AS

- (1) halo (F, Cl, Br, I),
- (2) C₁₋₂ alkyl;
- (3) trifluoromethyl,
- (4) nitro,
- (5) hydroxy,
- (6) phenyl,
- (7) C₁₋₂ alkyloxy,
- (8) heteroaryl,
- (9) S(O)_nR⁴, wherein n is selected from 0, 1, and 2, and
- (10) alkyoxy;

R⁴ is selected from:

- (a) C₁₋₄ alkyl,
- (b) phenyl, and
- (c) heteroaryl.

4. (Amended) The compound according to claim [3] 1 wherein:
heteroaryl is selected from:

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- (a) pyridyl,
- (b) pyrazinyl,
- (c) pyrazolyl, and

(d) thiazolyl;

either unsubstituted or substituted with one to three substituents independently selected from:

(1) halo (F, Cl, Br, I), *underline*
(2) C₁₋₂ alkyl,
(3) trifluoromethyl,
(4) nitro,
(5) hydroxy,
(6) cyano,
(7) amino, and
(8) C₁₋₂ alkyloxy[.]; and

phenyl is substituted with one to three substituents independently selected from:

(1) halo (F, Cl, Br, I),
(2) C₁₋₂ alkyl;
(3) trifluoromethyl,
(4) nitro,
(5) hydroxy,
(6) phenyl, and
(7) C₁₋₂ alkyloxy.

5. (Amended) The compound according to claim [3] 1 selected from:

(a) N-(4-pyridyl)-3-oxo-4-methyl-4-aza-5 α -androst-1-ene-17 β -carboxamide,
(b) N-(3-pyridyl)-3-oxo-4-methyl-4-aza-5 α -androst-1-ene-17 β -carboxamide,
(c) N-(pyrazinyl)-3-oxo-4-methyl-4-aza-5 α -androst-1-ene-17 β -carboxamide,
(d) N-(3-pyrazoyl)-3-oxo-4-methyl-4-aza-5 α -androst-1-ene-17 β -carboxamide, [and]
(e) N-(2-thiazolyl)-3-oxo-4-aza-4-methyl-5 α -androst-1-ene-17 β -carboxamide[.]

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- (f) N-(2-methylphenyl)-3-oxo-4-aza-4-methyl-5 α -androst-1-ene-17 β -carboxamide,
- (g) N-(2-methoxyphenyl)-3-oxo-4-aza-4-methyl-5 α -androst-1-ene-17 β -carboxamide,
- (h) N-(2-chlorophenyl)-3-oxo-4-aza-4-methyl-5 α -androst-1-ene-17 β -carboxamide,
- (i) N-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-oxo-4-aza-4-methyl-5 α -androst-1-ene-17 β -carboxamide,
- (j) N-(2-fluorophenyl)-3-oxo-4-aza-4-methyl-5 α -androst-1-ene-17 β -carboxamide,
- (k) N-(2-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-3-oxo-4-aza-4-methyl-5 α -androst-1-ene-17 β -carboxamide,
- (l) N-(2,5-bistrifluoromethyl-phenyl)-3-oxo-4-aza-4-methyl-5 α -androst-1-ene-17 β -carboxamide, N-(2-biphenyl)-3-oxo-4-aza-4-methyl-5 α -androst-1-ene-17 β -carboxamide, and
- (n) N-(4-biphenyl)-3-oxo-4-aza-4-methyl-5 α -androst-1-ene-17 β -carboxamide.

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13. (Amended) The composition according to claim 11 wherein the compound is selected from:

- (a) N-(4-pyridyl)-3-oxo-4-methyl-4-aza-5 α -androst-1-ene-17 β -carboxamide,
- (b) N-(3-pyridyl)-3-oxo-4-methyl-4-aza-5 α -androst-1-ene-17 β -carboxamide,
- (c) N-(pyrazinyl)-3-oxo-4-methyl-4-aza-5 α -androst-1-ene-17 β -carboxamide,
- (d) N-(3-pyrazoyl)-3-oxo-4-methyl-4-aza-5 α -androst-1-ene-17 β -carboxamide, [and]
- (e) N-(2-thiazolyl)-3-oxo-4-aza-4-methyl-5 α -androst-1-ene-17 β -carboxamide[.]
- (f) N-(2-methylphenyl)-3-oxo-4-aza-4-methyl-5 α -androst-1-ene-17 β -carboxamide,

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- (g) N-(2-methoxyphenyl)-3-oxo-4-aza-4-methyl-5 α -androst-1-ene-17 β -carboxamide,
- (h) N-(2-chlorophenyl)-3-oxo-4-aza-4-methyl-5 α -androst-1-ene-17 β -carboxamide,
- (i) N-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-oxo-4-aza-4-methyl-5 α -androst-1-ene-17 β -carboxamide,
- (j) N-(2-fluorophenyl)-3-oxo-4-aza-4-methyl-5 α -androst-1-ene-17 β -carboxamide,
- (k) N-(2-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-3-oxo-4-aza-4-methyl-5 α -androst-1-ene-17 β -carboxamide,
- (l) N-(2,5-bistrifluoromethyl-phenyl)-3-oxo-4-aza-4-methyl-5 α -androst-1-ene-17 β -carboxamide, N-(2-biphenyl)-3-oxo-4-aza-4-methyl-5 α -androst-1-ene-17 β -carboxamide, and
- (n) N-(4-biphenyl)-3-oxo-4-aza-4-methyl-5 α -androst-1-ene-17 β -carboxamide.

14. The compound according to Claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof, wherein:

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R¹ is methyl;

R² is H;

R³ is: heteroaryl, either unsubstituted or substituted with one to three substituents independently selected from:

- (1) halo (F, Cl, Br, I),
- (2) C₁₋₂ alkyl;
- (3) trifluoromethyl,
- (4) nitro,
- (5) hydroxy,
- (6) cyano,
- (7) amino,
- (8) C₁₋₂ alkyloxy,

(9) phenyl, and
(10) heteroaryl.

15. The compound according to Claim 14, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof, wherein:

R¹ is methyl;

R² is H;

R³ is: heteroaryl, selected from:

(a) pyridyl,
(b) pyrazinyl,
(c) pyrazolyl, and
(d) thiazolyl,

either unsubstituted or substituted with one to three substituents independently selected from:

(1) halo (F, Cl, Br, I),
(2) C₁₋₂ alkyl;
(3) trifluoromethyl,
(4) nitro,
(5) hydroxy,
(6) cyano,
(7) amino, and
(8) C₁₋₂ alkyloxy.

16. The compound according to Claim 15 which is:

(a) N-(4-pyridyl)-3-oxo-4-methyl-4-aza-5 α -androst-1-ene-17 β -carboxamide,
(b) N-(3-pyridyl)-3-oxo-4-methyl-4-aza-5 α -androst-1-ene-17 β -carboxamide, (c) N-(pyrazinyl)-3-oxo-4-methyl-4-aza-5 α -androst-1-ene-17 β -carboxamide,
(d) N-(3-pyrazolyl)-3-oxo-4-methyl-4-aza-5 α -androst-1-ene-17 β -carboxamide, and

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(e) N-(2-thiazolyl)-3-oxo-4-aza-4-methyl-5 α -androst-1-ene-17 β -carboxamide.

17. The compound according to Claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof, wherein:

R¹ is methyl;

R² is H;

R³ is phenyl substituted with one to three substituents independently selected from:

- (1) halo (F, Cl, Br, I),
- (2) C₁₋₂ alkyl;
- (3) trifluoromethyl,
- (4) nitro,
- (5) hydroxy,
- (6) phenyl,
- (7) C₁₋₂ alkyloxy,
- (8) heteroaryl,
- (9) S(O)_nR⁴, wherein n is selected from 0, 1, and 2, and
- (10) alkyoxy; and

R⁴ is selected from:

- (a) C₁₋₄ alkyl,
- (b) phenyl, and
- (c) heteroaryl.

18. The compound according to Claim 17 wherein:

R¹ is methyl;

R² is H;

R³ is phenyl substituted with one to three substituents independently selected from:

(1) halo (F, Cl, Br, I),
(2) C₁-2 alkyl;
(3) trifluoromethyl,
(4) nitro,
(5) hydroxy,
(6) phenyl, and
(7) C₁-2 alkyloxy.

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19. The compound according to Claim 18 selected from:

(a) N-(2-methylphenyl)-3-oxo-4-aza-4-methyl-5 α -androst-1-ene-17 β -carboxamide,
(b) N-(2-methoxyphenyl)-3-oxo-4-aza-4-methyl-5 α -androst-1-ene-17 β -carboxamide,
(c) N-(2-chlorophenyl)-3-oxo-4-aza-4-methyl-5 α -androst-1-ene-17 β -carboxamide,
(d) N-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-oxo-4-aza-4-methyl-5 α -androst-1-ene-17 β -carboxamide,
(e) N-(2-fluorophenyl)-3-oxo-4-aza-4-methyl-5 α -androst-1-ene-17 β -carboxamide,
(f) N-(2-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-3-oxo-4-aza-4-methyl-5 α -androst-1-ene-17 β -carboxamide,
(g) N-(2,5-bistrifluoromethyl-phenyl)-3-oxo-4-aza-4-methyl-5 α -androst-1-ene-17 β -carboxamide. (h) N-(2-biphenyl)-3-oxo-4-aza-4-methyl-5 α -androst-1-ene-17 β -carboxamide, and
(i) N-(4-biphenyl)-3-oxo-4-aza-4-methyl-5 α -androst-1-ene-17 β -carboxamide.

20. The compound according to Claim 18, wherein:

R¹ is methyl;

R² is H;

R³ is phenyl substituted with one substituent independently selected from:

(1) halo (F, Cl, Br, I), and

(2) trifluoromethyl.

21. The compound according to Claim 19, selected from:

(a) N-(2-chlorophenyl)-3-oxo-4-aza-4-methyl-5 α -androst-1-ene-17 β -carboxamide,
(b) N-(2-fluorophenyl)-3-oxo-4-aza-4-methyl-5 α -androst-1-ene-17 β -carboxamide, and
(c) N-(2-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-3-oxo-4-aza-4-methyl-5 α -androst-1-ene-17 β -carboxamide.

22. N-(2-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-3-oxo-4-aza-4-methyl-5 α -androst-1-ene-17 β -carboxamide.

23. The composition according to Claim 11 wherein the compound is selected from:

(a) N-(2-methylphenyl)-3-oxo-4-aza-4-methyl-5 α -androst-1-ene-17 β -carboxamide,
(b) N-(2-methoxyphenyl)-3-oxo-4-aza-4-methyl-5 α -androst-1-ene-17 β -carboxamide,
(c) N-(2-chlorophenyl)-3-oxo-4-aza-4-methyl-5 α -androst-1-ene-17 β -carboxamide,
(d) N-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-oxo-4-aza-4-methyl-5 α -androst-1-ene-17 β -carboxamide,
(e) N-(2-fluorophenyl)-3-oxo-4-aza-4-methyl-5 α -androst-1-ene-17 β -carboxamide,
(f) N-(2-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-3-oxo-4-aza-4-methyl-5 α -androst-1-ene-17 β -carboxamide,
(g) N-(2,5-bistrifluoromethyl-phenyl)-3-oxo-4-aza-4-methyl-5 α -androst-1-ene-17 β -carboxamide,
(h) N-(2-biphenyl)-3-oxo-4-aza-4-methyl-5 α -androst-1-ene-17 β -carboxamide, and
(i) N-(4-biphenyl)-3-oxo-4-aza-4-methyl-5 α -androst-1-ene-17 β -carboxamide.